

Sl. No.	States	Total
29.	Chandigarh	23
30.	Pondicherry	3
31.	Delhi	45
TOTAL:		1310

Storage facilities for foodgrains in rural areas

*492. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state whether Government propose to allocate funds for setting up of storage facilities in the rural areas to obviate the problems experienced recently in proper storage of foodgrains procured in different States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): The Government has recently announced a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of foodgrains to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains with the active participation of the private sector. The policy aims to encourage farmers to adopt scientific storage methods as 70 per cent of the total foodgrains produced is retained at the farm level.

Government is operating a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Construction of Godowns' to assist the State Governments/UT Administrations in their efforts to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) for construction of godowns upto 2000 MT capacity for smooth flow of PDS commodities especially in rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administration on 50 per cent grants in aid (subsidy) and 50 per cent loan basis. An outlay of Rs. 11.50 crores has been earmarked for the financial year 2001-2002 under the scheme.

FCI creates additional storage capacity by constructing godowns at micro level as per the requirement at the most strategic locations,

depending upon the budget allocations during the Five Year Plans and also by hiring from the various agencies like CWC/SWC/State Government and Private parties. For storage of foodgrains procured for the Central Pool, Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity of 31.09 million tonnes (owned/Hired/covered & CAP) against the total stocks of 28.94 million tonnes all over the country as on 1.3.2001.

Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has announced extension of credit linked subsidy scheme for construction of cold storage for perishable commodities to cover rural godowns.

Failure of Krasnopol ammunition shells

*493. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Krasnopol laser guided ammunition shells failed during the Kargil conflict as its accuracy varies missing the targets by atleast 10 kilometres; and

(b) if so, the reasons for its induction involving an expenditure of Rs. 150 crores?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI J AS WANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Krasnopol ammunition was not used during the Kargil conflict.

(b) Krasnopol ammunition is a laser guided system, inducted into service to engage high value targets. This ammunition has been inducted after necessary successful trial evaluations.